(d) whether the proposal will boost foreign earnings, besides generation of income and employment avenues to several thousand people of the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when the proposal will be ready?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) The Government of India has accorded Export House Status to Tourism. Hotels, Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators shall be entitled for recognition as Export House/Trading House/Star Trading House/Super Star Trading House vide Government of India, Ministry of Commerce Notification No. 33 dated 26-11-98. Consequently, they shall be entitled to such benefits as specified in Chapter 12 of the Hand Book of Procedures (Vol. I).

(c) The development of tourism is primaily the responsibility of the State Governments. However, Union Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance for tourism infrastructure for which State Governments seek assistance.

(d) and (e) The granting of industry status and consequential benefits thereof would help in the development of tourism which would ultimately result in higher foreign exchange earnings.

**Development of Tourism in Kerala**

2013. VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has made any proposal for development of tourism in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether there is any scheme for introducing more tourist centres in Kerala and also to introduce the house boats in the veinland lake?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI OMAK APANG): (a) and (b) Ministry of Tourism in consultation with the State Government has prioritised 15 projects amounting to Rs. 467 lakhs for the development of tourism in the State of Kerala.

(c) There are 4 tourist centres in Kerala which are Bekal, Cochin, Kovalam and Trivandrum. There is no proposal to introduce more tourist centres in Kerala. No proposal from the State Government has been received for introducing house boats in the veinland lake. However, the project to purchase house boats for Malabar has been prioritised for the current financial year for Rs. 50.00 lakhs.

**Grant of export industry status to Tourism**

2014. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have reviewed the position of Tourism industry on grant of export industry status and benefits related to the status;

(b) the foreign exchange earning of tourism industry during the past three years and current year so far with year-wise and State-wise break-up with reference to Maharashtra in particular;

(c) what are the growth perceptions of tourism industry for the next five years; and

(d) the details of investments on ongoing projects recently cleared/ under consideration, including private sector and FDI projects?